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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/684,682	10/04/2000	Gilles H. Tapolsky	359872000810	3633

25226 7590 08/19/2002

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EXAMINER

WEBMAN, EDWARD J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1617

DATE MAILED: 08/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/684682

Applicant(s)

TAPOLSKY

Examiner

WEBMAN

Group Art Unit

1617

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

- ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/15/02
- ☐ This action is **FINAL**.
- ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- ☒ Claim(s) 19-33 is/are pending in the application.
- ☐ Of the above claim(s) 25-33 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- ☒ Claim(s) 19-29 is/are rejected.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- ☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.
- ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

- ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- ☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been
- ☐ received.
- ☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- ☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s) 5
- ☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413
- ☐ Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- ☐ Other _____

Office Action Summary

Applicant's election with traverse of a method of treating mucosal surfaces, hydroxypropyl cellulose (HP) as a film forming polymer and non-adhesive backing layer polymer, sodium carboxymethyl cellulose (CMC) as a bioadhesive polymer, and a vasoconstrictor as a pharmaceutical in Paper No. 7 is acknowledged. The traversal is on the ground(s) that the methods all require the identical step of applying an adherent film so that the processes are not materially different. This is not found persuasive because the loci and purposes for which the films are applied are materially different.

The requirement is still deemed proper and is therefore made FINAL.

Applicants can overcome the election requirements simply by stating on the record that the methods are not distinct. However, a rejection over one method Shall then be applicable to all.

The election of species requirement over the pharmaceutical is withdrawn.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 19-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 95/05416 ('416).

'416 teaches treatment of a mucosal surface a composition comprising an adhesive layer and other layers, which are water-soluble and contain an active (abstract).

Hydroxypropyl cellulose in combination with sodium-CMC is disclosed (page 12 line 29 page 13 line 1). Thicknesses are specified (page 13 lines 11-12).

Hydroxypropyl cellulose is disclosed in a second layer (page 15 lines 7-16). An overlapping adhesive layer is specified (page 30, lines 16-21). Anesthetics are specified (page 9, line 21).

Claim 22 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

"Selected From" in lines 2, 4 is vague; is a Markush group intended? If so, "the group consisting of" should follow.

No claims allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edward Webman whose telephone number is (703) 308-4432. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 9 Am 5 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Minna Moezie can be reached on (703) 308-0570. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3592 for regular communications and (703) 305-3592 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

Webman/LR
July 30, 2002



EDWARD J. WEBMAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1500